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| 22850 | 7590 | 02/26/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | | SHAIFER HARRIMAN, DANT B |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| | | 2434 | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Office Action Summary</i> | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/803,955 | YACHIDA, MASUYOSHI |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | DANT B. SHAIFER HARRIMAN | 2434 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 - 40 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 - 40 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/22/2009 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Status of the instant application:

- Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 18, 22, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 have been amended in the instant application.
- Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34 are previously presented.
- Claims 12, 17, 25, 30 are original in the instant application.
- Referring to claims 22 – 33, under 35 USC 101 rejection for non -statutory subject matter, specifically software per se., applicants amendment to the claims, specifically adding of the claim limitation, "processor," has been fully considered and found to be persuasive, therefore based on applicants amendment to the claims, the rejection is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments and or remarks filed 01/22/2009 have been fully considered and have been found to be not persuasive, please see the examiners response to applicant's arguments and also the corresponding office action below.

Examiners response to applicant's arguments;

Applicant states: "Amended Claim 1 recites an electronic equipment including, in part, "a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person." Applicant respectfully submits that Osawa and Mivaiima fail to disclose or suggest these features. "

- The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicants logic and reasoning, the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, 0018, 0020, 0023, 0024, 0030, 0031, 0037, .0067, 0072, 0073, 0081 of Miyajima, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic

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function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.

Applicant states: "Applicant submits that Miyaiima fails to disclose or suggest "a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person," as recited in amended Claim 1."

- The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicants logic and reasoning, the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, 0018, 0020, 0023, 0024, 0030, 0031, 0037, .0067, 0072, 0073, 0081 of Miyajima, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.

Applicant states: "Thus, Osawa and Miyaiima, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest "a changing part," as recited in amended Claim 1."

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- The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's logic and reasoning, the examiner points to the examiners previous logic and reasoning above of Miyajima and claim 1.

Applicant states: "Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of Osawa and Miyaiima."

- The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's logic and reasoning, the examiner points to the examiner previous logic and reasoning above of Miyajima referencing claim 1.

Applicant states: "Further, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 7, 9, 22, and 35-40 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of Osawa and Miyaiima for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1 and for the more detailed features presented in these claims. "

- The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's logic and reasoning, the examiner points to the examiners previous logic and reasoning above of Miyajima referencing claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim(s) 1 – 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over OSAWA (10 – 305528) in view of Miyajima (2001 - 075095).

OSAWA discloses:

1. An electronic equipment, comprising: a plurality of equipment parts that may be subjected to maintenance; and

- a setting part that is set with one or more plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance by a maintenance – attending person is permitted (Paragraph: 0016, 0028, 0029, 0045, 0047, 0052, 0057, also please see paragraphs: 0039 & 0043 of Osawa, the examiner notes that Osawa teaches a range of control values (i.e. maintenance range) that would control the operation of the device and its various components);

2. The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

- setting part is preset with a maintenance range for each maintenance person (Paragraph: 0045).

9. An equipment maintenance system for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

- a setting part configured to set in advance the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance by a maintenance – attending person is permitted (Paragraph: 0016, 0028, 0029, 0045, 0047, 0052, 0057, also the examiner notes paragraph: 0025, that the maintenance personnel is able to collect information about maintenance of parts from the apparatus before (i.e. in advance) the maintenance is started and completed);

22. An equipment maintenance method for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment may be performed, comprising:

(a) setting in advance the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance by a maintenance attending person is permitted(Paragraph: 0016, 0028, 0029, 0045, 0047, 0052, 0057, also the examiner notes paragraph: 0025, that the maintenance personnel is able to collect information about maintenance of parts from the apparatus before (i.e. in advance) the maintenance is started and completed);

35. An electronic equipment, comprising: a plurality of equipment parts that may be subjected to maintenance

- setting means for storing one or a plurality of equipment parts for which the maintenance by a maintenance-attending

person is permitted (Paragraph: 0016, 0028, 0029, 0045, 0047, 0052, 0057, also the examiner notes paragraph: 0025, that the maintenance personnel is able to collect information about maintenance of parts from the apparatus before (i.e. in advance) the maintenance is started and completed);

37. An equipment maintenance system for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

- setting means for setting in advance the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance by a maintenance-attending person is permitted (Paragraph: 0016, 0028, 0029, 0045, 0047, 0052, 0057, also the examiner notes paragraph: 0025, that the maintenance personnel is able to collect information about maintenance of parts from the apparatus before (i.e. in advance) the maintenance is started and completed);

38. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for setting one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of an electronic equipment that may be subjected to maintenance, said method comprising:

setting the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance by a maintenance-attending person is permitted (Paragraph: 0016, 0028, 0029, 0045, 0047, 0052, 0057, also the examiner notes paragraph: 0025, that the maintenance

personnel is able to collect information about maintenance of parts from the apparatus before (i.e. in advance) the maintenance is started and completed);

40. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, said method comprising:

- setting in advance the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts for which the maintenance by a maintenance-attending person is permitted (Paragraph: 0016, 0028, 0029, 0045, 0047, 0052, 0057, also the examiner notes paragraph: 0025, that the maintenance personnel is able to collect information about maintenance of parts from the apparatus before (i.e. in advance) the maintenance is started and completed);

OSAWA does not explicitly disclose:

1. An electronic equipment, comprising: a plurality of equipment parts that may be subjected to maintenance; and
 - a processor configured to authenticate validity of the maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment; and
 - a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said

setting part, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

3. The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

- processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the maintenance-attending person.

4. The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

- changing part is configured to add at least one of the plurality of equipment parts specified by the change instruction only for a period of time specified by the change instruction, with respect to the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part.

5. The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

- setting part is also set with a predetermined management range in which management is permitted, and said changing part also temporarily changes the predetermined management range set in said setting part, in response to the change instruction, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

6. The electronic equipment as claim 1, further comprising:

- an input part configured to permit input of the change instruction by an operator whose validity is authenticated.

7. An equipment managing apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment that includes a setting part which is set with one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for a which maintenance is permitted, a first authenticating part to authenticate a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and a changing part to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part in response to a change instruction when the first authenticating part authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said equipment managing apparatus comprising:

- a processor configured to authenticate validity of an operator of the equipment managing apparatus;
- an input part configured to permit input of the change instruction for changing one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part when the processor authenticates the validity of the operator, maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of

arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment; and

- a supply part configured to supply the change instruction input from said input part to the electronic equipment.

8. The equipment managing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein

- said processor authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator.

9. An equipment maintenance system for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

- a processor configured to authenticate validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment; and
- a changing part configured to temporarily change the set one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts based on an authentication result of said processor, so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted for the changed

one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment.

10. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said

- setting part is provided within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

11. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- said changing part is provided within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

12. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein

- said changing part is provided in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

13. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein

- said changing part is provided in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, or provided within the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

14. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

- a second authenticating part configured to authenticate a validity of an operator of said changing part.

15. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 14, wherein

- said second authenticating part authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator.

16. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of a maintenance person.

17. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- said setting part sets in advance a maintenance range for each maintenance person.

18. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

- a maintenance part configured to perform the maintenance of the equipment for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts.

19. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 18, wherein

- said maintenance part is provided in an apparatus within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network to perform remote maintenance of the equipment.

20. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 18, wherein

- said maintenance part is provided within an apparatus in a setup site of the equipment, or within the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

21. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- the equipment is selected from a group consisting of an information processing apparatus, an office automation (OA) equipment, a point-of sales (POS) terminal equipment, a medical equipment, a vending machine, an electrical home appliance, and a portable terminal equipment.

22. An equipment maintenance method for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment may be performed, comprising:

- (b) authenticating validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment;
- (c) changing temporarily, with a processor, the set one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts based on an authentication result of said step (b), so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment.

23. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

- (a) is performed within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

24. The equipment managing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

(c) is carried out within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment.

25. The equipment managing method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said step

(c) is carried out in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

26. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said step

(c) is carried out in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, or within the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a, network.

27. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

(d) authenticating validity of an operator of said changing part.

28. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 27, wherein said step

(d) authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator.

29. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

(b) authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of a maintenance person.

30. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

(a) sets in advance a maintenance range for each maintenance person.

31. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

(e) carrying out maintenance of the equipment for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts.

32. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said step

(e) is carried out in an apparatus within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network to perform remote maintenance of the equipment.

33. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said step

(e) is carried out within an apparatus in a setup site of the equipment, or within the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network.

34. The equipment maintenance method as Claimed in claim 22, wherein

- the equipment is selected from a group consisting of an information processing apparatus, an office automation (OA) equipment, a point-of sales (POS) terminal equipment, a medical equipment, a vending machine, an electrical home appliance, and a portable terminal equipment.

35. An electronic equipment, comprising: a plurality of equipment parts that may be subjected to maintenance

- authenticating means for authenticating validity of the maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment; and
- changing means for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts stored in said setting means, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said authenticating means authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

36. An equipment managing apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment which includes setting means for storing one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for which maintenance is permitted, first authenticating means for authenticating a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and changing means for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts stored in the setting means in response to a change instruction when the first authenticating means authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said equipment managing apparatus comprising:

- second authenticating means for authenticating validity of an operator of the equipment managing apparatus;
- input means for permitting input of the change instruction for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts stored in said setting means when the second authenticating means authenticates the validity of the operator, maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment; and

- means for supplying the change instruction input from said input means to the electronic equipment.

37. An equipment maintenance system for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

- authenticating means for authenticating validity of a maintenance-attending person for the equipment; and
- changing means for temporarily changing the set one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts based on an authentication result of said authenticating means, so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted within for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment.

38. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for setting one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of an electronic equipment that may be subjected to maintenance, said method comprising:

- authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment; and
- changing temporarily the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said authenticating authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person.

39. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for managing an electronic equipment that includes a setting part set with one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for which maintenance is permitted, an authenticating part configured to authenticate a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part in response to a change instruction when the authenticating part authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said method comprising:

- authenticating a validity of an operator of the computer;
- inputting the change instruction for temporarily changing the maintenance range one or the plurality of arbitrary

equipment parts set in the setting part when the authenticating authenticates the validity of the operator, maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment; and

- supplying the change instruction input by said inputting to the electronic equipment.

40. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, said method comprising:

- authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment; and
- changing temporarily the set one or the plurality of equipment parts based on an authentication result of said authenticating, so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted for the changed one or the plurality of

arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment.

However, Miyajima discloses:

1. An electronic equipment, comprising: a plurality of equipment parts that may be subjected to maintenance; and
 - a processor configured to authenticate validity of the maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138, the examiner notes specifically in paragraph: 0138, the device to be serviced is a diagnostic machine, to one of ordinary skill in the art, any machine to function must have a processor to operate); and
 - a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person(Paragraphs: 0018, 0081, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging

equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

3. The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

- processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the maintenance-attending person (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138 & 0047, 0127, 0128).

4. The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

- changing part is configured to add at least one of the plurality of equipment parts specified by the change instruction only for a period of time specified by the change instruction, with respect to the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting part (Paragraphs: 0047, 0127, 0128, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...), or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure

diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

5. The electronic equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

- setting part is also set with a predetermined management range in which management is permitted, and said changing part also temporarily changes the predetermined management range set in said setting part, in response to the change instruction, when said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person (Paragraphs: 0132, 0133, 0042, 0021, also the examiner notes specifically in paragraph: 0138, the device to be serviced is a diagnostic machine, to one of ordinary skill in the art, any machine to function must have a processor to operate).

6. The electronic equipment as claim 1, further comprising:

- an input part configured to permit input of the change instruction by an operator whose validity is authenticated (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138).

7. An equipment managing apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment that includes a setting part which is set with one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for a which maintenance is permitted, a first authenticating part to

authenticate a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and a changing part to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part in response to a change instruction when the first authenticating part authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said equipment managing apparatus comprising:

- a processor configured to authenticate validity of an operator of the equipment managing apparatus (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138, also the examiner notes specifically in paragraph: 0138, the device to be serviced is a diagnostic machine, to one of ordinary skill in the art, any machine to function must have a processor to operate);
- an input part configured to permit input of the change instruction for changing one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part when the processor authenticates the validity of the operator, maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138, also see paragraph: 0018 & 0081 of Miyajima, the examiner specifically points to paragraph: 0081, the service member that is to service a machine, can have his or her access authority time restricted on a particular day,(i.e. input of change instruction temporarily changing a maintenance range to service a machine) for a schedule maintenance by

the service member, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.); and

- a supply part configured to supply the change instruction input from said input part to the electronic equipment (Paragraph: 0014).

8. The equipment managing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein

- said processor authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138 & 0047, 0127, 0128, the examiner interprets medium as a database that is in a server or computer).

9. An equipment maintenance system for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

- a processor configured to authenticate validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment
(Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138); and
- a changing part configured to temporarily change the set one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts based on an authentication result of said processor, so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment(Paragraphs: 0018, 0081, also the examiner specifically points to paragraph: 0081, the service member that is to service a machine, can have his or her access authority time restricted on a particular day,(i.e. input of change instruction temporarily changing a maintenance range to service a machine) for a schedule maintenance by the service member, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient

(i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

10. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said

- setting part is provided within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment (Paragraph: 0010, 0011, 0007).

11. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- said changing part is provided within a maintenance service provider which provides maintenance services for the equipment or, within a setup site of the equipment (Paragraph: 0010, 0011, 0007).

12. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein

- said changing part is provided within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment (Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

13. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein

- said changing part is provided in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, or provided within the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network (Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

14. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

- a second authenticating part configured to authenticate a validity of an operator of said changing part (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138).

15. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 14, wherein

- said second authenticating part authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator (Paragraphs: 0067, 0068, 0078, 0084).

16. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- said processor authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of a maintenance person (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138 & 0067, 0068, 0078, 0084 & 0047, 0127, 0128).

17. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- said setting part sets in advance a maintenance range for each maintenance person (Paragraph: 0021, 0023, 0041, 0042).

18. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

- a maintenance part configured to perform the maintenance of the equipment for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts (Paragraph: 0021, 0023, 0041, 0042).

19. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 18, wherein

- said maintenance part is provided in an apparatus within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network to perform remote maintenance of the equipment (Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

20. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 18, wherein

- said maintenance part is provided within an apparatus in a setup site of the equipment, or within the equipment, and

said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network (Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

21. The equipment maintenance system as claimed in claim 9, wherein

- the equipment is selected from a group consisting of an information processing apparatus, an office automation (OA) equipment, a point-of sales (POS) terminal equipment, a medical equipment, a vending machine, an electrical home appliance, and a portable terminal equipment (Paragraph: 0010, 0011).

22. An equipment maintenance method for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment may be performed, comprising:

(b) authenticating validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138); and

(c) changing temporarily, with a processor, the set one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts based on an

authentication result of said step (b), so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment (Paragraphs: 0018, 0081, also the examiner specifically points to paragraph: 0081, the service member that is to service a machine, can have his or her access authority time restricted on a particular day,(i.e. input of change instruction temporarily changing a maintenance range to service a machine) for a schedule maintenance by the service member, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

23. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

(a) is performed within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment (Paragraph: 0010, 0011, 0007).

24. The equipment managing method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

(c) is carried out within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, or within a setup site of the equipment (Paragraph: 0010, 0011, 0007).

25. The equipment managing method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said step

(c) is carried out in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network (Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

26. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said step

(c) is carried out in an apparatus within the maintenance service provider, or within the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a, network (Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

27. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

(d) authenticating validity of an operator of said changing part (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138).

28. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 27, wherein said step

(d) authenticates the validity of the operator using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of the operator (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138 & 0067, 0068, 0078, 0084 & 0047, 0127, 0128, the examiner interprets medium as a database that is integrated into a server).

29. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

(b) authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person using an authenticating medium that stores authentication information of a maintenance person (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138 & 0067, 0068, 0078, 0084 & 0047, 0127, 0128, the examiner interprets medium as a database that is integrated into a server).

30. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step

(a) sets in advance a maintenance range for each maintenance person (Paragraph: 0021, 0023, 0041, 0042).

31. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

(e) carrying out maintenance of the equipment for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts (Paragraph: 0021, 0023, 0041, 0042, also the examiner specifically points to paragraph: 0081, the service member that is to service a machine, can have his or her access authority time restricted on a particular day,(i.e. input of change instruction temporarily

changing a maintenance range to service a machine) for a schedule maintenance by the service member, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

32. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said step

(e) is carried out in an apparatus within a maintenance service provider that provides maintenance services for the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network to perform remote maintenance of the equipment (Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

33. The equipment maintenance method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said step

(e) is carried out within an apparatus in a setup site of the equipment, or within the equipment, and said apparatus is communicatable with the equipment via a network
(Paragraph: 0014 & 0012).

34. The equipment maintenance method as Claimed in claim 22, wherein

- the equipment is selected from a group consisting of an information processing apparatus, an office automation (OA) equipment, a point-of sales (POS) terminal equipment, a medical equipment, a vending machine, an electrical home appliance, and a portable terminal equipment (Paragraph: 0010, 0011).

35. An electronic equipment having parts which may be subjected to maintenance and are specified by a maintenance range, comprising:

- authenticating means for authenticating validity of the maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment(paragraph: 0138); and

- changing means for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts stored in said setting means, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said authenticating means authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, (Paragraphs: 0018, 0081, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

36. An equipment managing apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment which includes setting means for storing one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for which maintenance is permitted, first authenticating means for authenticating a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and changing means for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts stored in the setting means in response to a

change instruction when the first authenticating means authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said equipment managing apparatus comprising:

- second authenticating means for authenticating validity of an operator of the equipment managing apparatus (Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138);
- input means for permitting input of the change instruction for temporarily changing the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts stored in said setting means when the second authenticating means authenticates the validity of the operator, maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment (Paragraph: 0014, also see paragraph: 0018 & 0081 of Miyajima, the examiner specifically points to paragraph: 0081, the service member that is to service a machine, can have his or her access authority time restricted on a particular day,(i.e. input of change instruction temporarily changing a maintenance range to service a machine) for a schedule maintenance by the service member, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data

management, diagnosing part etc...), or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.); and

- means for supplying the change instruction input from said input means to the electronic equipment (Paragraph: 0014).

37. An equipment maintenance system for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, comprising:

- authenticating means for authenticating validity of a maintenance-attending person for the equipment(paragraph: 0138); and
- changing means for temporarily changing the set one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts based on an authentication result of said authenticating means, so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted within for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a

target equipment (Paragraphs: 0018, 0081, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

38. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for setting one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts of an electronic equipment that may be subjected to maintenance, said method comprising:

- authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment(paragraph: 0138); and

- changing temporarily the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in said setting, in response to a change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment, when said authenticating authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person (Paragraphs: 0018, 0081, the examiner specifically points to paragraph: 0081, the service member that is to service a machine, can have his or her access authority time restricted on a particular day,(i.e. input of change instruction temporarily changing a maintenance range to service a machine) for a schedule maintenance by the service member, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

39. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for managing an electronic equipment that includes a setting part set with one or a plurality of

arbitrary equipment parts of the electronic equipment for which maintenance is permitted, an authenticating part configured to authenticate a validity of a maintenance-attending person for the electronic equipment, and a changing part configured to temporarily change the one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part in response to a change instruction when the authenticating part authenticates the validity of the maintenance-attending person, said method comprising:

- authenticating a validity of an operator of the computer(Paragraph: 0018, 0020, 0030, 0031, 0037, 0041, 0072, 0073, 0129, 0138);
- inputting the change instruction for temporarily changing the maintenance range one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts set in the setting part when the authenticating authenticates the validity of the operator, maintenance of the electronic equipment by the maintenance-attending person being permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the change instruction including the electronic equipment as a target equipment (Paragraph: 0018, also see paragraph: 0018 & 0081 of Miyajima, the examiner specifically points to paragraph: 0081, the service member that is to service a machine, can have his or her access authority time restricted on a particular day,(i.e. input of change instruction temporarily changing a maintenance range to service a machine) for a schedule maintenance by the service member, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and

telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.); and

- supplying the change instruction input by said inputting to the electronic equipment(Paragraph: 0018).

40. A computer-readable storage medium including a program, wherein the program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method for controlling a plurality of equipment parts of an equipment for which maintenance of one or a plurality of arbitrary equipment parts may be performed, said method comprising:

- authenticating a validity of the maintenance-attending person for the equipment(paragraph: 0138); and
- changing temporarily the set one or the plurality of equipment parts based on an authentication result of said

authenticating, so that maintenance of the equipment is temporarily permitted for the changed one or the plurality of arbitrary equipment parts, the authentication result including the equipment as a target equipment (Paragraphs: 0018, 0081, specifically the examiner points to paragraphs: 0010, 0013, the operator when authorized to access and repair the diagnostic imaging equipment, via the network and telediagnostic function or remote service, the operator will have control of all different equipment parts (i.e. plurality of arbitrary equipment parts) other than the diagnostic part that the doctor uses to diagnose the patient (i.e. patient data management, diagnosing part etc...) , or the operator will be able to access the state (i.e. setting part) of the diagnostic imaging equipment which the doctors use, the operator will be able to repair (i.e. a changing part) any necessary failure diagnosis through instructions of the operator that is clear for access of the diagnostic imaging machine, paragraphs: 0016.).

OSAWA and Miyajima are analogous art because they are from the “same field of endeavor,” which is the field of remote secure repair maintenance of an electronic device.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of OSAWA and Miyajima before him or her, to modify the repair of a electronic device by remote secure servicing utility by a repair person of OSAWA to include the repair of a electronic device by remote secure servicing utility by a authenticated repair person of Miyajima.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to allow for a authenticated user or operator to have restricted access to the servicing of a electronic device over the network, Paragraph: 0007 of Miyajima.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANT B. SHAIFER HARRIMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7910. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday: 8:00am - 5:30pm Alt.Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

02/17/2009

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